

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

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**February 27, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Pam Laborde
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**Hunt Correctional Center Hosts 10th Annual Inmate Job/Resource Fair
*Employers, Community Groups Invited to Attend***

(Baton Rouge) The Louisiana Department of Labor and the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections encourage area employers and community resource agencies to participate in the Elayn Hunt Correctional Center Job & Community Resource Fair from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, March 29 in St. Gabriel.

More than 250 skilled and semi-skilled inmates eligible for release within one week to six months will attend the fair. Most inmates will be releasing to communities in and around New Orleans, Slidell, Baton Rouge, Lafayette and Alexandria. Prior to incarceration, many inmates already possessed skills and good work histories in construction, heavy equipment operations and oilfield work. Inmates also receive on-the-job skills training in prison jobs such as:

Automotive Repairer	Electrical/HVAC Helper	Library Clerk
Animal Caretaker	Forklift Operator	Painter
Building Maintenance	Grounds Maintenance	Paralegal
Clerical Assistant	Heavy Equipment	Plumber
Chemical Handler	Hospital Orderly	Roofer
Chemical Packager	Janitor	Shoe Repairer
Carpenter	Kitchen Worker	Tailor
Cook	Laundry Technician	Welder

Released inmates qualify for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program entitling employers to a 40 percent tax credit on the first \$10,000 wages paid in the first year of employment. Employers may also qualify for an additional reimbursement of 50 percent of the employee's salary if Workforce Investment Act criteria are met. Federal bonding is also available.

The resource fair also gives inmates the opportunity to learn about community resources such as housing, faith-based programs and other support systems designed to help provide more stable living circumstances for the individual and a more dependable employee for the workforce.

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Staff from the Education and Chaplaincy departments will provide assistance to employers and resource agency participants before, during and after the fair. Inmates will prepare job applications in advance for those employers needing detailed training and work history information. Lunch will be provided. Participants need only bring their display materials.

Participants must complete a registration form to obtain security clearance. The deadline to register and reserve a space at the Hunt Job & Resource Fair is March 16, 2007. Contact Madeline McCaleb at (225) 319-4266 as soon as possible to register. Registration information can also be found on the Department's website at www.doc.louisiana.gov.

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